

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 21-26 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 2 and 10 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 7 and for clarity. See Figs. 1, 2A and 2B; and col. 13, lines 1-9 of the specification.

Independent claim 3 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 3A and 3B; and page 10, lines 6-13. Claims 21-26 are added to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, page 11, lines 3-7.

Claims 6, 8 and 9 are amended for clarity. Claims 4 and 7 are canceled. Also canceled are non-elected claims 11-20.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to update the address of Applicants' representative, as indicated in the concurrently filed "Notice of Change of Address." A Power of Attorney was filed October 13, 2006 to this effect, but the Patent Office has failed in honoring Applicants' request.

Applicants thank Examiner Hyeon for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the October 18, 2007 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended for clarity, as outlined above, to overcome these rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,861 to German et al.; rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

over U.S. Patent No. 6,350,148 to Bartolutti et al.; rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,497,588 to Scharf et al.; rejects claims 1 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,841,851 to Recht et al.; and rejects claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over German or Bartolutti. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 2 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 7 and to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite an "inquiry." Claims 2 and 10 are similarly amended. The applied references do not disclose or suggest these new features, as recited in claims 1, 2 and 10.

In particular, when rejecting claim 7, the Office Action asserts that Bartolutti discloses elements 808 and 812 in Fig. 8 regarding a determination that is made regarding whether a connector is present within a receptacle when there is a failure to detect signals through the transmission line. However, regardless whether such an Office Action assertion is factually supported, Bartolutti does not disclose or suggest "a controller that determines whether signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected by the signal detector, wherein, when the controller determines that signals communicated through the transmission line have not been detected by the signal detector, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector has been detected by the sensor to be within the receptacle," as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 2 and 10. In particular, Bartolutti does not disclose or suggest a controller that issues an inquiry, as recited in claims 1, 2 and 10.

Claim 3 is amended to recite additional features of an optical sensor. In particular, claim 3 is amended to recite a light emitting device, a light sensor and a mirror. The applied references do not disclose or suggest these features, as recited in claim 3.

In particular, when rejecting claim 3, the Office Action asserts that Scharf discloses in Fig. 8, an optical emitter and an optical detector. However, Scharf does not disclose or

suggest a mirror. Thus, Scharf does not disclose or suggest the configuration of the optical sensor recited in claim 3.

In view of the above, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-3 and 10, and claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claims 21-26 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 2 and 10, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller, as recited in claims 21-26.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Notice of Change of Address

Date: November 2, 2007

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